

Dromana Associations Response to Shaping Greater Dromana

The Shaping Greater Dromana Plan that the Mornington Peninsula Shire has created has been somewhat informed by the 2022-23 Arthurs Seat/Wonga Escarpment roundtable forum and aims to develop an agreed-upon vision and key principles for the escarpment's future, recognising its linkages into the Dromana township and surrounding green wedge hinterland. The Shaping Greater Dromana Plan serves as a strategic framework for the area, outlining how various Council-led initiatives contribute to shaping Dromana future across critical areas such as environmental protection, sustainable transport, community infrastructure, public open space, local economic development, and affordable housing. The plan has attempted to encourage community participation, allowing interested local voices to be heard and assist in the development of the Greater Dromana area.

The Dromana association acknowledges the plan includes:

- Focuses on preserving and enhancing the natural environment while promoting climate-resilient strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Sustainable transport and movement networks: The plan aims to develop efficient and environmentally friendly transportation systems and networks within the Greater Dromana area.
- Community infrastructure, public open space, and recreation: The plan seeks to provide and improve community facilities, parks, and recreational spaces to support the local community's needs and enhance their quality of life.
- Local economic development: The plan aims to foster a thriving local economy by promoting business growth, job creation, and investment in the Greater Dromana area.
- Affordable and diverse housing: The plan addresses affordability and diversity, ensuring that the community can access various housing options catering to different needs and income levels.

The outcomes have been pursued through various Council-led initiatives and projects, with some community consultation and input so that local voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.

Although It has been theoretically possible to undertake a project like the Shaping Greater Dromana Plan without the guidance of an urban planner, it has been significantly more challenging.

Urban planners bring valuable expertise and experience in land use planning, zoning, transportation, environmental protection, and community engagement, all essential components of a comprehensive and effective plan for an area like Greater Dromana.

Urban planners would have helped:

- Analyse and understand the local context: Urban planners can assess the area's existing conditions, demographics, and trends, providing a strong foundation for making informed decisions about the community's future.
- Developed a strategic vision: Urban planners can work with stakeholders and community members to develop a shared vision for the area's future, taking into account a range of factors such as economic development, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

- translate the strategic vision into practical solutions and policies that can be implemented to achieve the desired outcomes.
- engage the community in the planning process, ensuring that local perspectives and needs are taken into account and that the final plan reflects the desires of the community.

Reliance on historical data alone can sometimes lead to plans that only partially account for current or future trends, such as changes in population, mobility, or visitor patterns.

‘Neighborlytics’ is a valuable tool for gaining insights into these factors, as it provides data on people who live, work, visit, and move through an area.

We wish to emphasise the importance of using a mix of data sources and analytical tools to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the Greater Dromana area. This could include:

- Highlight the limitations of relying solely on historical data and the potential benefits of incorporating more current and dynamic data sources, such as Neighborlytics.
- Provide specific examples of how incorporating data on visitor patterns, daily movement, or other relevant factors could lead to more effective planning and decision-making.
- Use members of the local community to workshop and analyse these data sources suggesting ways to integrate them into the planning process.